

A Brief Analysis of the Development and Change of the Gelao Ethnicity and the Research on the Dissemination Strategies

Lin Zhu*, Shuchun Zhao, Yudie Ao, Wen Yu

Xingyi Normal University for Ethnicities, Xingyi 562400, China

*Corresponding author: Lin Zhu, 18485741891@163.com

Copyright: © 2024 Author(s). This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (CC BY 4.0), permitting distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is cited.

Abstract: This paper explores the significance and value of the development and change of Gelao's traditional sports game, the bamboo egg game. The bamboo egg game is an important part of Gelao culture, and its technique is closely connected with its traditional culture. The paper also examines the educational significance of introducing the traditional game of Gelao ethnicity into sports courses. The research object is the traditional sports game of bamboo egg game in Wuchuan Gelao Ethnicity and Miao Ethnicity Autonomous County. The research methods used include the literature data method, investigation method, and logical analysis method. The paper makes a logical analysis of the dissemination forms and development and innovation materials of Gelao ethnicity's bamboo egg game, discovers the existing problems, and puts forward solutions to promote the inheritance and development of this traditional sports game.

Keywords: Gelao; Gelao spreading form; Performance form

Online publication: June 20, 2024

1. Introduction

The bamboo egg game is a special ethnic minority traditional sports event of the Gelao ethnicity, which has a long history, rich cultural connotation, and unique sports characteristics. It is an indispensable part of Gelao culture. With the rapid development of the social economy today, sports events and entertainment methods have increased, greatly impacting sports games. Due to the restriction of the bamboo egg game and so on, now, many young people do not understand or even have not heard of this folk sports game, some also do not understand the development and change of this game. As a typical representative of Gelao's traditional sports game, the bamboo egg game is a treasured traditional culture of Gelao's sports. Now the inheritance and development of the bamboo egg game are threatened, it is urgent for relevant departments to vigorously publicize and spread the historical development and change of the bamboo egg game in combination with today's science and technology, so more people can understand the origin of the game and cherish it. The author travels deep into the Gelao area of Wuchuan County, Guizhou Province, to investigate the development and change of the Gelao

bamboo egg game by the local people, collates and records the learned content, and puts forward corresponding strategies that are more conducive to communication, to achieve reform and innovation of the Gelao bamboo egg game and let more people know about it.

2. Significance and value of the development and change of bamboo egg game and the research of communication countermeasures

2.1. Cultural significance

First of all, the bamboo egg is a unique traditional handicraft of the Gelao ethnicity, which is closely connected with its traditional culture. Inheriting the bamboo egg technique not only protects and inherits the cultural heritage of Gelao but also enables more people to know and understand the unique culture of this minority group. Secondly, the game is a part of the traditional culture of the Gelao ethnicity, which has been passed down from generation to generation and preserved to become an indispensable part of the life of the Gelao people. The existence of this traditional game enables the Gelao culture to continue, and the Gelao people have a deeper sense of identity for their own ethnic culture. Finally, the egg game is also a platform for the display and communication of the cultural traditions of Gelao. In the competition, Gelao people from different areas could get together to show their advantages and learn from each other by competing their skills and wisdom, which promoted the exchange and integration of Gelao culture from different areas ^[1].

2.2. Educational significance

The introduction of the traditional Gelao ethnic bamboo egg game into sports courses allows students to have a deeper understanding and experience of the ethnic traditional sports culture. First of all, this traditional ethnic sports game has various forms, and its content is closely related to student's life experiences and interests. While enriching the curriculum, it can stimulate students' interest in sports, improve sports cultural accomplishment, and cultivate exercise habits ^[2]. Secondly, the game requires participants to have certain strategies and skills, which require accurate calculation and judgment. Therefore, students' thinking ability, observation, and judgment are cultivated in the game, and their intelligence level and teamwork ability are enhanced. Finally, it improves the effect of curriculum education based on inheriting traditional culture. Through curriculum reform and innovation, it can cultivate new people of the era with all-round development of morality, intelligence, physique, and labor spirit.

3. Research object and method

3.1. Research objects

This paper takes the traditional sports event of bamboo egg game in Wuchuan Gelao Ethnicity and Miao Ethnicity Autonomous County as the research object.

3.2. Research methods

3.2.1. Literature data method

Relevant materials from CNKI, Net News, Minzong Bureau of Wuchuan County, and so on, are searched and extracted to obtain relevant and needed information about the topic through analysis and sorting.

3.2.2. Investigation method

Through the exchange and interview of the Gelao elders in the inhabited places of Gelao in Wuchuan County,

local schools and communities were visited and investigated, to understand the development, transformation, and dissemination of the traditional bamboo egg sports game.

3.2.3. Logical analysis method

By collecting and sorting out the dissemination forms and development and innovation materials of Gelao ethnicity's bamboo egg game, this paper makes a logical analysis of them, discovers the existing problems, and puts forward the solving strategies.

4. Development and change

4.1. Development and change of Gelao ethnicity's performance form of bamboo egg game

4.1.1. Sports forms in the Southern Song Dynasty

The earliest documentary record of the bamboo egg game is in "Xi Man Cong Xiao" by Zhu Fu in the Southern Song Dynasty, which states "Gelao local customs, in the number of the year festival, people go to the field into two teams, each with five colors of bean millet toss, named *feituo*"^[3]. This means that there is an interesting festival number game in Gelao local customs, in which participants will be divided into two teams and each team will use five different colors of bags filled with beans and grains.

The game is called *feituo*, the participants will toss the colored bags filled with beans and grains back and forth. *Feituo* was the predecessor of the game.

4.1.2. The form of movement in the Ming and Qing dynasties

Children of Gelao ethnicity like to play in their ancestral hall, and gradually formed a set of playing styles "preserving egg nest" suitable for both young and old. Fighting was a relatively standardized form of sport at that time, mainly in the harvest or New Year, to celebrate the harvest and the New Year. The game was held in the field, with the same number of people on both sides, and then the host threw the ball high in the center of the field, and then the two sides could start to snatch, trip, grab, hit, kick, and other actions^[4].

4.1.3. The forms of sports after the founding of New China

The game can also use the feet to kick the bamboo egg across the "river". The game would be considered a failure if the bamboo egg could not fall, the bamboo egg did not cross the "river" or the bamboo egg touched the body. In the wine and meat war version, this game has no venue restrictions, no number of requirements, does not have to group, and the ball is served by the previous victor. The winner is the one who can pick up and serve the ball the most. The winner will get meat, wine, and other food as a reward^[5].

4.1.4. The movement form of reform and opening up to now

After reform and opening up until now, the game mainly consists of "shopping ball", "hand shot", "playing nerd", "attack" and other movements.

4.2. Evolution of sports venues and playing methods

4.2.1. Traditional courts and playing methods

The traditional playing style is shown in Figure 1.



"There is no limit to the number of "egg nests"

There is mainly a center line, and the two participating teams stand on both sides of the center line. At the beginning of the game, the "Mel eggs" was thrown out from the center line of the venue, and the two teams participating in the game began to compete. After grabbing it, they put it in the "egg nest" on the edge of the field to start a new round of competition.

"changing nests"

There is no limit to the number of people. after selecting the venue, dig a big hole in the center of the venue, draw one person to beat "shredded eggs", while others each guard a "small nest". After the start of the game, the hand who played "Mel eggs" took a stick to drive "Mel eggs" into the "big nest". The people guarding the "small nest" around the "big nest" use wooden sticks to block the "Mie eggs" and rush into the "big nest", while those who can't grab the nest become the new ones to catch up with the "Mie eggs" and start a new round of games.



"across the river"

requires that the number of participants must be an even number, the gong sounded the game, with "Mie eggs" one side can kick and other ways, the "Mie eggs" hit the "river", if the "Mie eggs" hit the "river", and the other side did not catch the "Mie eggs" to let it fall to the ground, it can "cross the river", occupy the place within the landing of "Mie eggs", and redraw the boundary. If you do not beat the "Mie eggs" across the "river", "Mel eggs" fall on their own field, then the people of the other side can "cross the river", occupy the place within the landing point of their own "Mie eggs", and re-draw the "river" as a new demarcation line, until the last party is rushed to the edge of the site, and the other side occupies all the venues, the game is over.



Figure 1. Traditional playing style

4.2.2. Finishing the court and playing method after processing

The bamboo egg game needs to be carried out on a rectangular court. The game is divided into two teams, each team sends 6 players on the field. There must be a female dressed up to attend as a team commander, who is responsible for throwing the ball. The players get points by "fighting" through the goals, 1 point from using the hand, 2 points from using the foot, and 3 points from using the head, and the person with the highest score wins the game.

4.3. Bamboo egg performance form

4.3.1. The competition form of bamboo eggs in old times

First, choose a wide yard, and divide a line in the middle, with A and B being two teams of varying numbers. If the game is in the wilderness, the number of people is not limited. The player cannot throw the ball with the hand or kick with the foot. The ball touching or landing within the boundary of the party will be considered a loss. In the course of the game, the ball is first thrown into the air by a random person, others run to the ball, grab the ball, and then throw out the ball. The team that throws the ball out the most wins.

4.3.2. The entertainment form of bamboo eggs in the new era

In a version called "wandering the ball", the game participants will run from the person chasing the ball by passing around the ball. If the chaser catches the person holding the ball, the ball holder will become the new chaser. Another version is called the "Pai Jian", which plays similarly to the shuttlecock, but it does not kick with the foot, but with the hand to beat the ball.

In general, the bamboo egg game nowadays is played competitively, as entertainment or performance of "across the river", "change the nest", "into the cylinder", and other forms of competition [6]. The specific playing method should be based on the location, time, personnel conditions, and other restrictions, and can temporarily make corresponding changes and adjustments [7].

5. Problems and solving strategies in the communication of Gelao ethnicity's bamboo egg game

5.1. Problems in spreading the bamboo egg game

5.1.1. The mode of teaching is one-way and the technology communication is backward

The digital talent is scarce, the equipment is backward, and the communication content is not detailed. Most of the relevant information people get is text and pictures, with almost no video, so people can only understand the surface details of the game.

5.1.2. Uncertain inheritance

From ancient times to the present, the traditional sports culture of Gelao has experienced vicissitudes of life, and there is uncertainty in the inheritance process, so it is on the verge of disappearing now ^[8].

5.1.3. Late development period

The school-based curriculum of Gelao's traditional physical education was developed relatively late. Due to the remoteness of the minority area, the development status is poor, which is restricted by the conditions of funds, manpower, and the school itself. Moreover, it is impacted by the new sports culture.

5.1.4. Lacks policy support

The sports sport of bamboo egg game lacks policy support and help, and the development of the traditional sports event of bamboo egg game of Gelao ethnicity lacks economic support and development foundation. There is a lack of participating groups and an uneven development of the sport.

5.1.5. Insufficient teachers and venues

The number of venues and coaches who teach the bamboo egg game is insufficient, and the structure of the crowd participating in the game movement is unbalanced. The way of developing the campaign of the bamboo egg game is also outdated ^[9].

5.2. Gelao ethnicity's strategy to solve the propagation problem of the bamboo egg game

5.2.1. Integrating the ethnic game into school education

Incorporating the bamboo egg game into the compulsory physical education course of local schools will help spread the game among schools. Schools can also build a digital multimedia communication platform, develop an application, establish a special website, establish a public account and an official microblog, and so on. Educators can also improve digital technology and build a database on the bamboo egg game, including digital collection, processing, and classification of its history and culture, origin, clothing, sports forms, activities, and other information. Audio-visual products such as non-documentary films, TV dramas, animation, and so on can also be created.

5.2.2. Combining bamboo egg game with school sports

The Gelao bamboo egg game can be spread through the combination with school sports, which not only promotes the development and dissemination of the traditional sports culture of Gelao but also enriches the physical education curriculum resources of schools in the areas inhabited by Gelao. Traditional sports activities should be integrated into the teaching content and taught to students in a unified way, to influence the new generation of young people subtly, cultivate their ideology of inheriting and protecting the traditional sports culture, enrich the campus culture, and combine with the construction of the new countryside to carry out sports

activities of the bamboo egg game on a large scale^[10-11].

5.2.3. Standardize traditional sports game

Relevant departments should strengthen the attention of schools to Gelao ethnicity's bamboo egg game by further improving and standardizing the school-based curriculum system, and increasing the investment in Gelao's traditional sports project.

5.2.4. Establish new policies

Relevant departments shall establish relevant policies and systems, strengthen the protection and inheritance of traditional culture, and elevate the traditional sport of bamboo egg game for the sake of ethnic culture protection and inheritance. Local characteristics should be developed to introduce school-based courses and establish relevant training institutions. Combining the local tourism industry with the bamboo egg game can realize its synchronous development with society^[12].

5.2.5. Increase public support

Relevant policies should be established to increase the human, material, and financial support for the bamboo egg game. A variety of channels can be adapted to publicize and promote the game by constantly innovating the rules and competition system

6. Conclusion

To sum up, the bamboo egg game has a long history in the Gelao culture. Southwest China is the origin of the bamboo egg game^[13]. Its movement has various forms, and there are many theories about its origin. For example, the ancestors of the Gelao ethnicity come from the bamboo area in the water, so the Gelao ethnicity honors and respects the bamboo^[14]. Because of its diverse forms and meanings, there is no single standard, so there are big problems in the process of inheritance, especially in today's rapid development of science and technology. Although it is a traditional ethnic game unique to the Gelao ethnicity, people should break the geographical restrictions and solve the problems in its transmission process, by letting more people know about it through modern media such as Tiktok, Kuaishou, and XiaoHongshu, to achieve the purpose of large-scale dissemination^[15].

Funding

This paper is the research result of innovation and entrepreneurship training for students of Xingyi Normal University for Ethnicities in 2023: "Introducing Minority Folk Games into the Classroom: Taking Gelao as an example" (Project number: 202310666159).

Disclosure statement

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

References

[1] Ren XD, 2013, The Evolution and Rules of Bamboo Egg in Guizhou Gelao ethnicity. *Lantai World*, 2013(25): 110–

- [2] Li FH, 2019, A Case Study on the Introduction of Ethnic Traditional Sports into the Campus of Renhuai Houshan Ethnic Middle School, thesis, Guizhou Normal University.
- [3] Zhou B, 2022, Research on Cultural Communication of Gelao Ethnicity in Guizhou Province under the Background of New Media, thesis, Guangxi University for Ethnicities.
- [4] Qiu YH, 2023, Field Investigation on the Traditional Sports Event Bamboo Egg of Guizhou Gelao Ethnicity. *Contemporary Sports Science and Technology*, 13(20): 118–121.
- [5] Zhao GQ, 2016, Study on Finishing and Inheritance of Bamboo Egg, a Traditional Sports Item of Guizhou Gelao Ethnicity, thesis, Chengdu Physical Education University.
- [6] Liu YB, Feng X, 2018, Development Analysis of Gelao Ethnicity Folk Traditional Sport Bamboo Egg Game. *Sports Excellence*, 37(11): 74–75.
- [7] Feng FZ, 2019, Research on the Development of School-based Curriculum of Gelao Traditional Sports Item Bamboo Egg Game, thesis, Xi'an Physical Education University.
- [8] Xu ZW, 2016, Research on Inheritance, Protection and Development of Gelao Folk Culture, thesis, Northwest University for Ethnicities.
- [9] Li YF, 2015, Research on Development Status and Countermeasures of “Bamboo Egg” of Wuchuan Gelao Ethnicity. *Contemporary Sports Science and Technology*, 5(21): 190–191.
- [10] Yao L, Wan SQ, 2020, Research on the Status Quo and Inheritance of the Fusion of Bamboo Egg Game and School Sports. *Written Exchange Proceedings of 2021 China Sports Intangible Cultural Heritage International Conference*, 1.
- [11] Peng PR, 2018, Analysis of Development Status and Countermeasures of Gelao Traditional Sports “Bamboo Eggs”. *Contemporary Sports Science and Technology*, 8(11): 165–166 + 170.
- [12] Liu MM, Gao WB, Huang ZL, 2018, Value Orientation and Principle of Evaluating Bamboo EGG of Gelao Ethnicity. *Wushu Research*, 3(01): 123–125.
- [13] Feng FZ, 2019, Research on the Development of School-based Curriculum of Gelao's Traditional Sports Item Bamboo Egg, thesis, Xi'an Institute of Physical Education.
- [14] Luo ZQ, 2017, Analysis on Inheritance Pattern and Fertility Function of Gelao Ethnicity Bamboo Eggs. *Journal of Zunyi Normal University*, 19(06): 142–146 + 155.
- [15] Ding Y, Liu L, Zheng L, 2023, Research on Inheritance Strategy of Gelao Folk Sports from the Perspective of New Media. *Journal of Zunyi Normal University*, 25(06): 149–153.

Publisher's note

Bio-Byword Scientific Publishing remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.